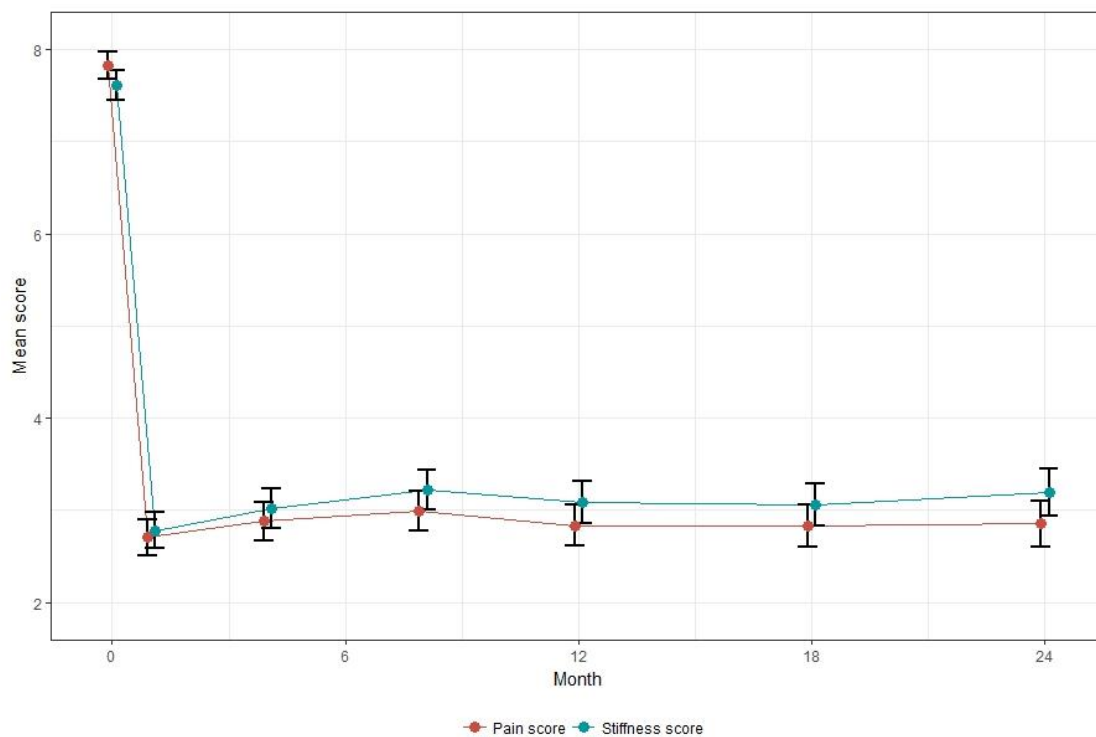
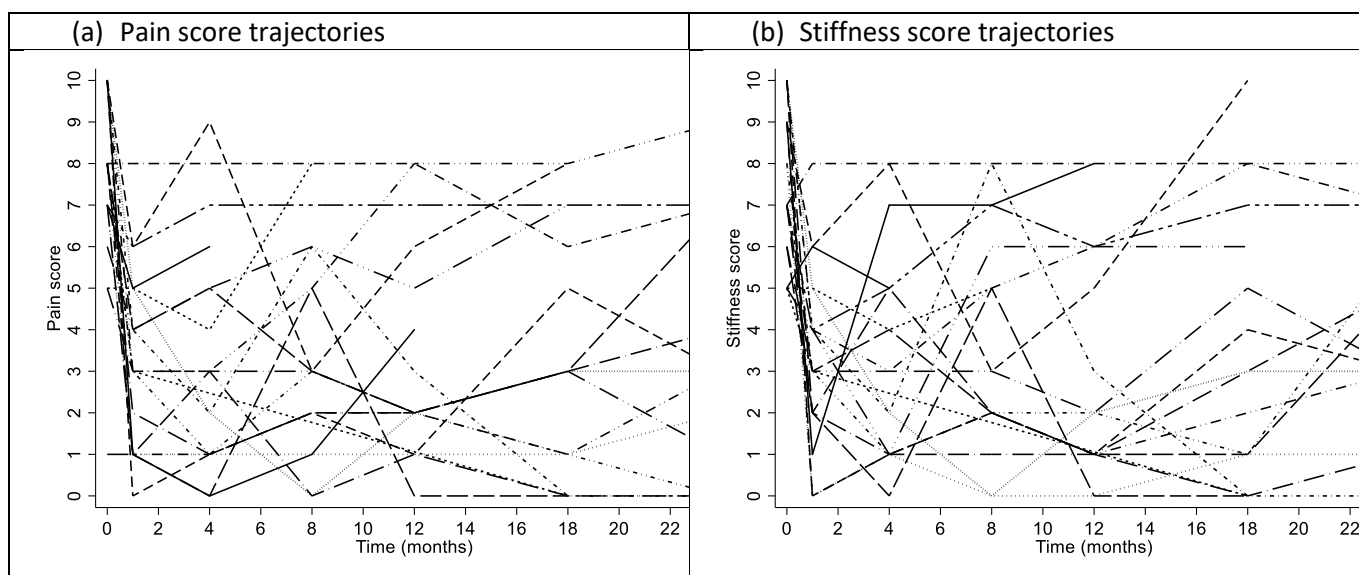


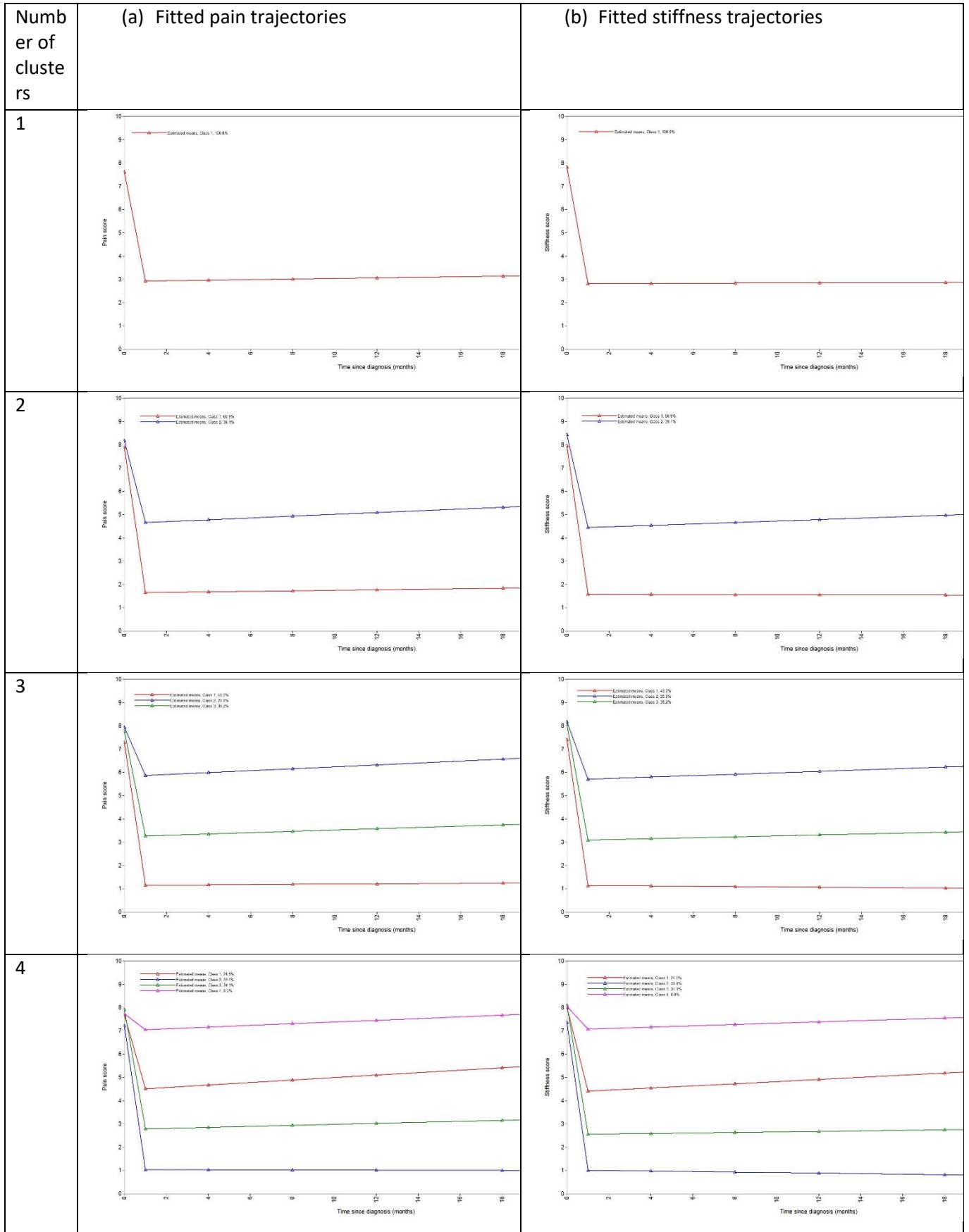
Supplementary Figure S1. Distribution of pain and stiffness scores over 24 months



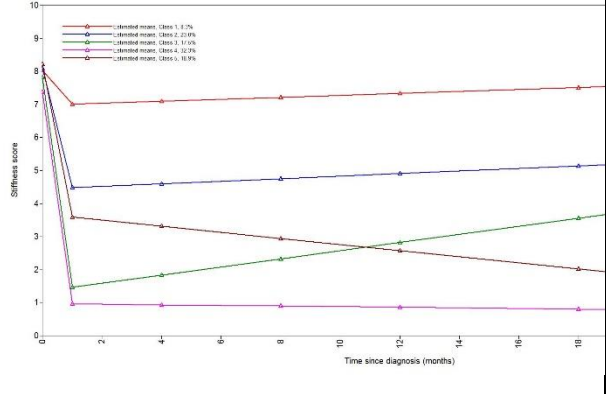
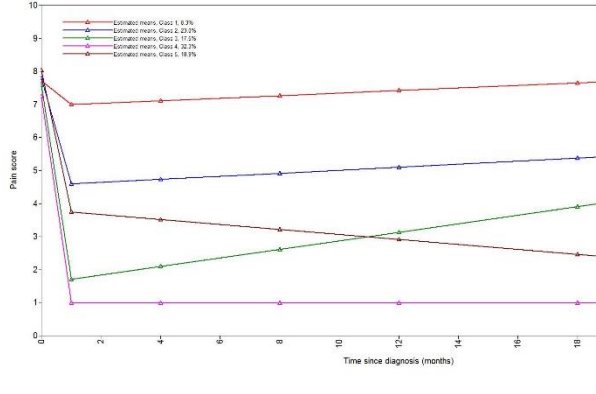
Supplementary Figure S2. Individual trajectories of (a) pain and (b) stiffness scores in 20 randomly selected individuals



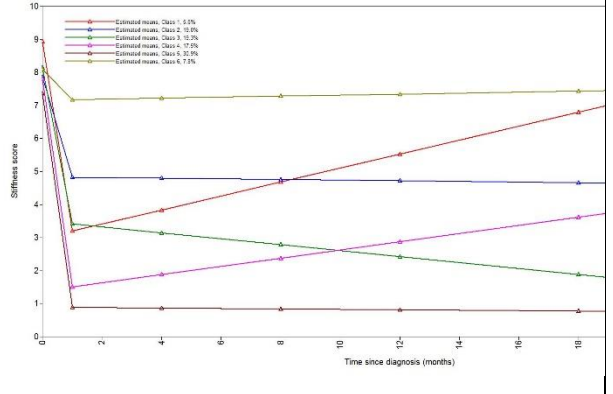
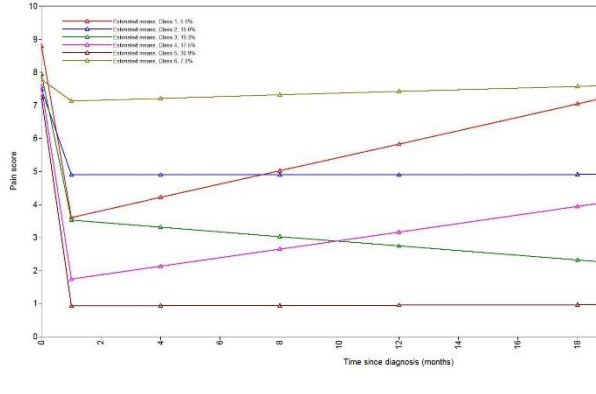
Supplementary Figure S3. Fitted pain and stiffness trajectories for (a) pain and (b) stiffness with varying numbers of latent growth curves (n=650)



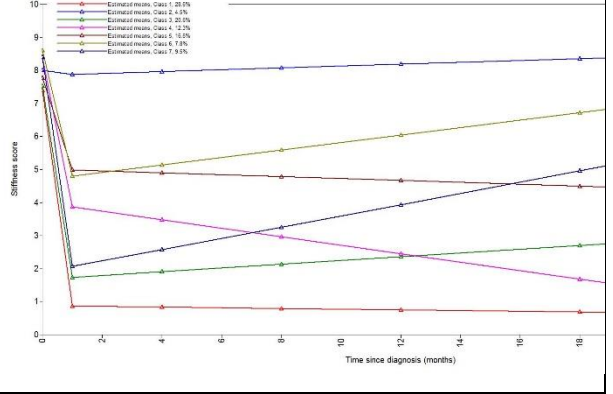
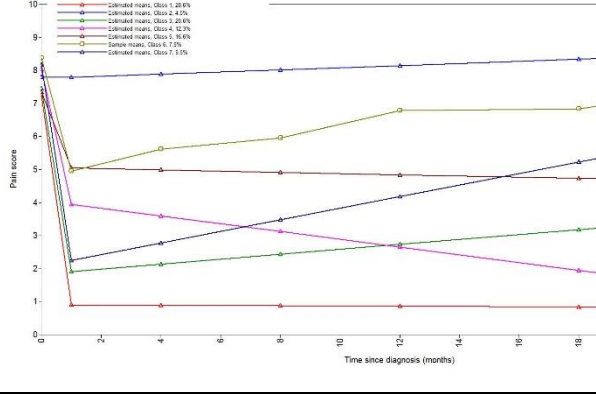
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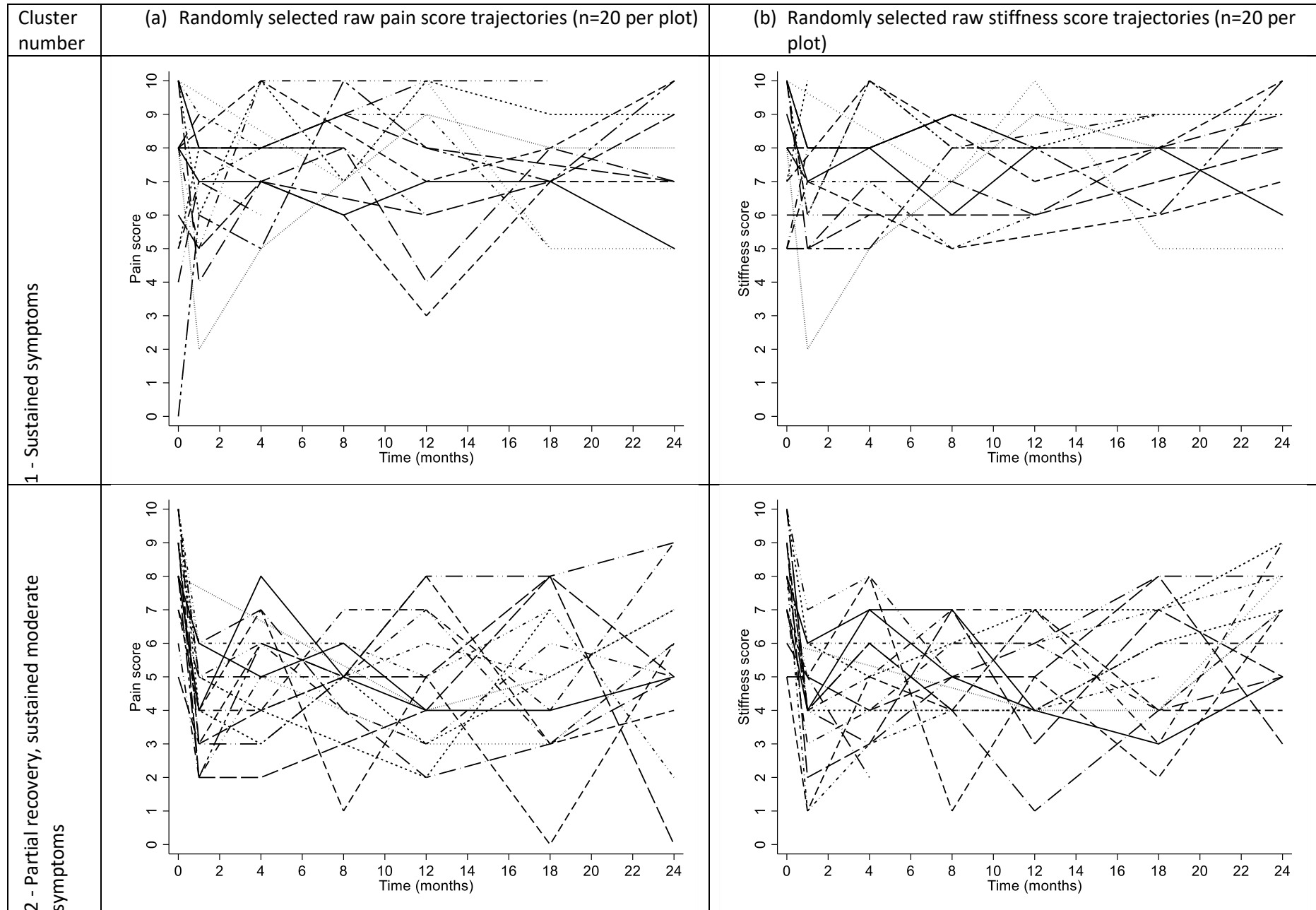
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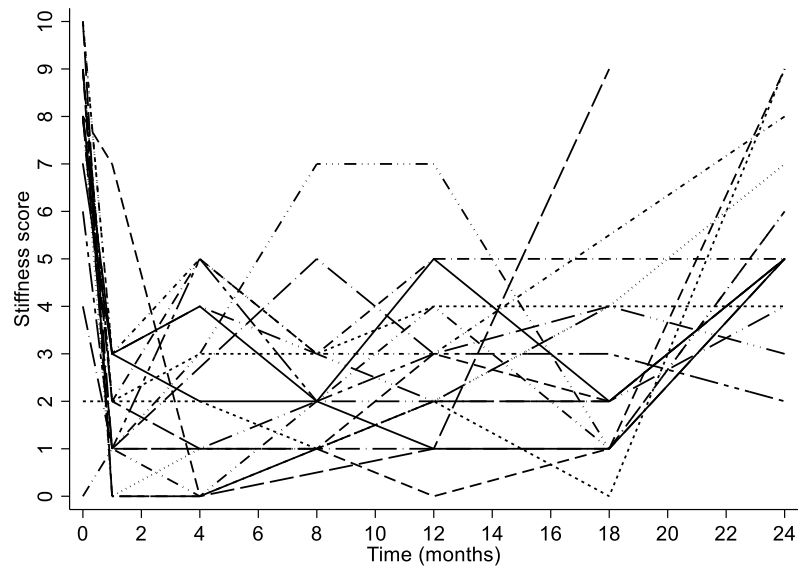
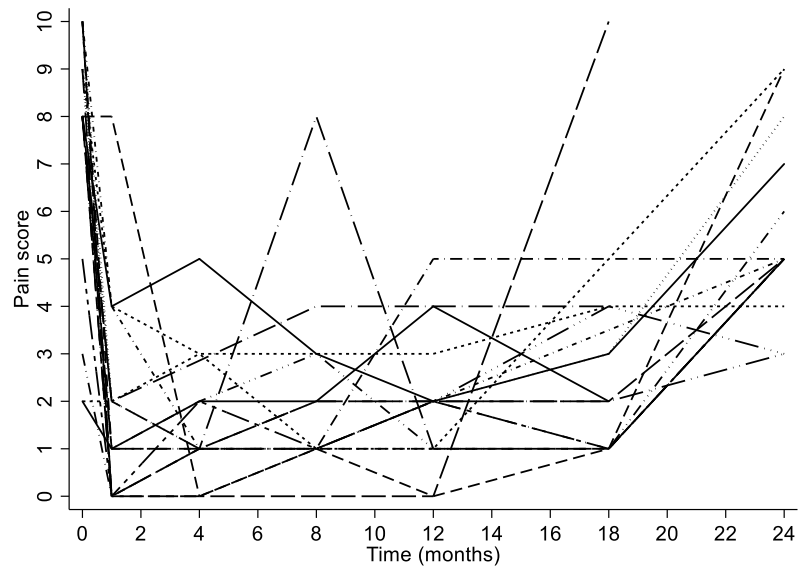
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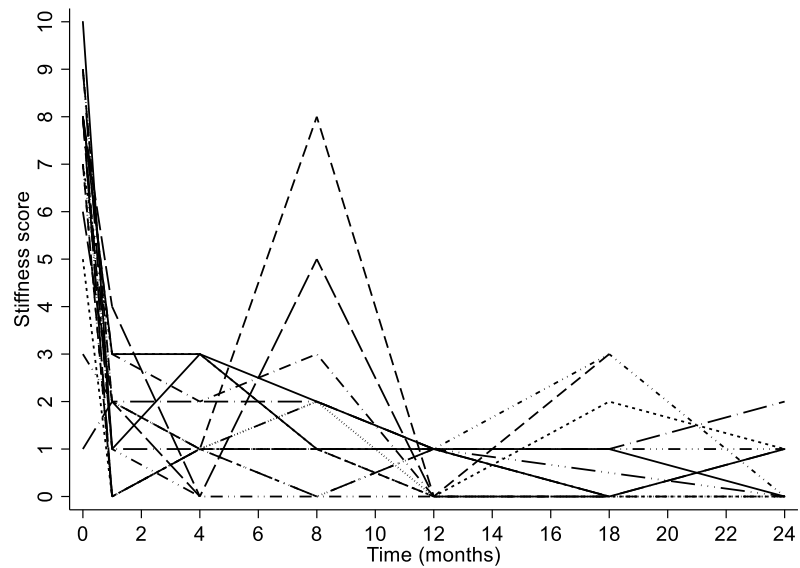
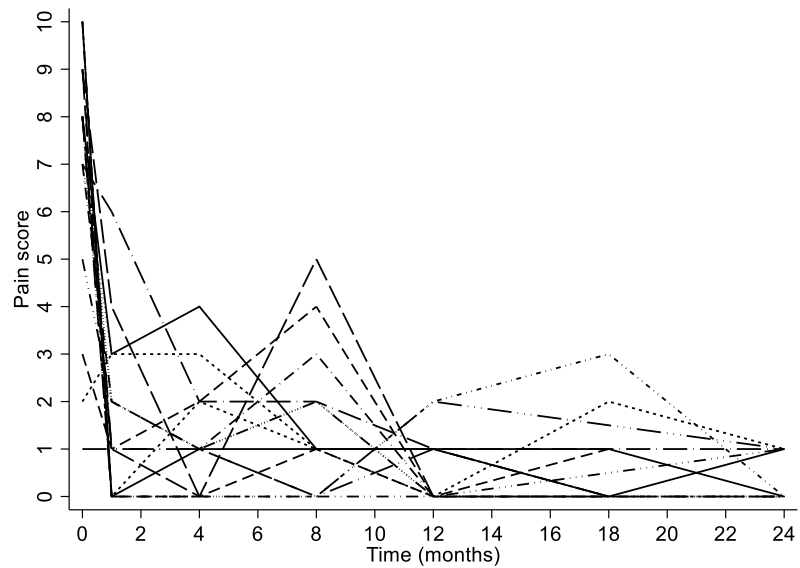
Supplementary Figure S4: Individual trajectories of (a) pain and (b) stiffness within the five clusters of the chosen model (n=650)



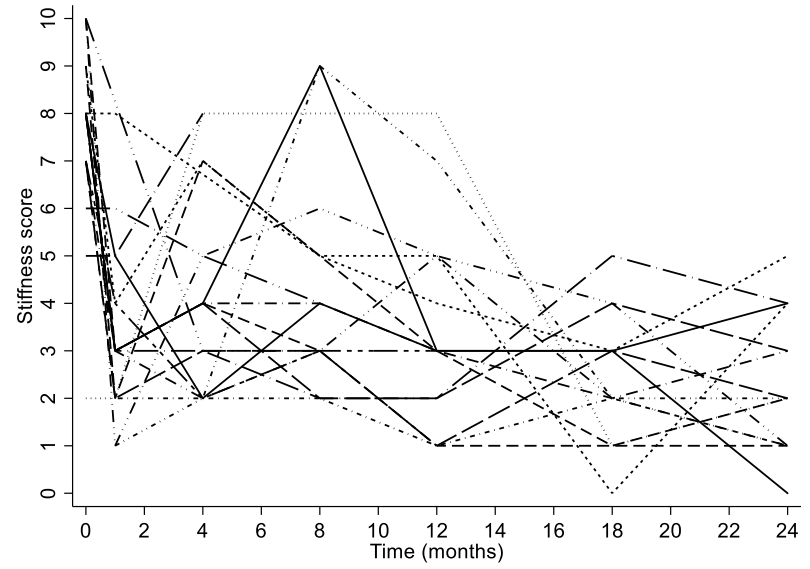
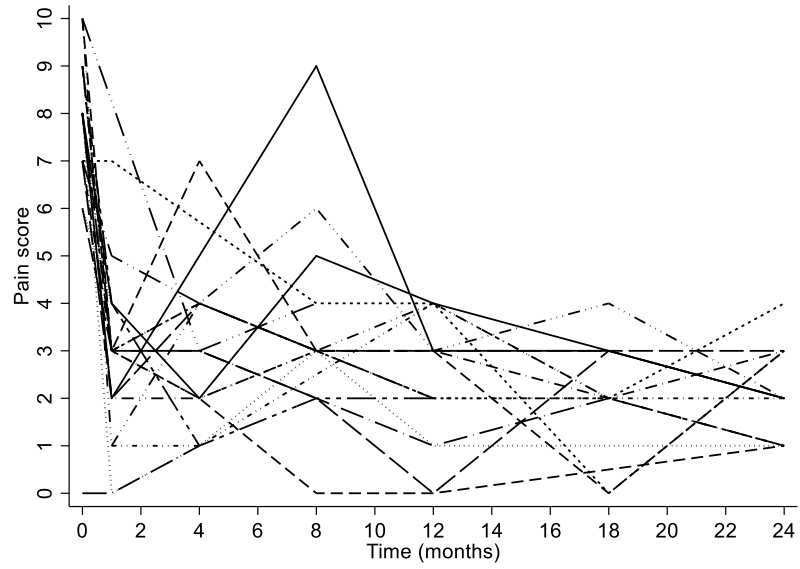
3 - Recovery before worsening



4 - Rapid and sustained recovery



5 - Slow and continuous recovery



Supplementary Table S1: Self-reported prednisolone dose (mg) (Median (IQR)) over time by Cluster

Cluster	Baseline	Month 1	Month 4	Month 8	Month 12	Month 18	Month 24
1 Sustained symptoms	15 (12.5, 20)	10 (8.75, 15)	10 (7.6, 14.5)	6.25 (3, 11.25)	9 (5, 15)	10 (3.25, 15)	5 (3.25, 6.75)
2 Partial recovery, sustained moderate symptoms	15 (12.5, 20)	12.5 (10, 15)	9 (7, 10)	7 (5, 9)	6 (4, 9)	5 (4, 7.5)	5 (3.5, 7.5)
3 Recovery before worsening	15 (11.5, 20)	10.5 (10, 15)	8 (6, 10)	5.5 (4, 8)	5 (2.5, 7)	5 (3, 6)	4 (3, 6)
4 Rapid and sustained recovery	15 (12.5, 20)	10 (10, 15)	7.5 (5, 9)	5 (4, 7)	5 (3, 6)	4 (2, 6)	3.25 (2, 6)
5 Slow and continuous recovery	15 (10, 20)	10 (9, 14)	8 (6, 10)	6 (4, 8)	5 (3, 6)	4 (2, 5.75)	4 (2, 5)

IQR – interquartile range

Supplementary Table S2: Proportion of individuals self-reporting being referred to a specialist for PMR in the 2-year follow-up questionnaire

Cluster	Referred, n (%)
1 Sustained symptoms	9 (40.9)
2 Partial recovery, sustained moderate symptoms	28 (28.9)
3 Recovery before worsening	19 (22.9)
4 Rapid and sustained recovery	21 (13.3)
5 Slow and continuous recovery	16 (18.6)